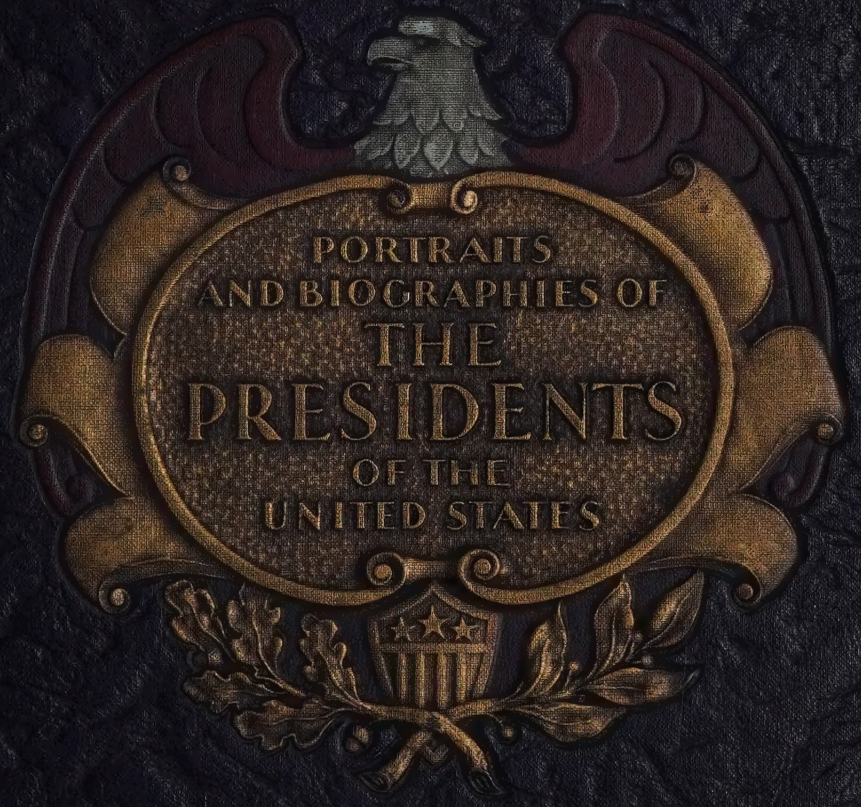
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THE PRESIDENTS *of the* UNITED STATES

BIOGRAPHIES BY
F. CLYDE DOANE

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GEORGE WASHINGTON

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served two terms—*from* 1789 *to* 1797

Born February 22, 1732—Died December 14, 1799

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GEORGE WASHINGTON

"NO nobler figure ever stood in the forefront of a nation's life," was written of George Washington by that brilliant English historian, John Richard Green. The truth of this assertion is proved when one realizes that in any work which undertakes to record the heroic deeds of American history, the noble form of Washington is ever in the forefront. He was the greatest of America's great men.

His parents were distinguished, but of modest means, and the early death of his father forced the young Virginian to face the world with only a limited education. His activities as surveyor, hunter, and backwoodsman gave him great physical powers, and developed a strength of character that commended him to those about him.

The responsibility of military command was his at an age when we of today would be but seniors at college. Defeat in his first expedition only served to make him more resolute and determined to succeed. Nor was his genius shown only in military affairs. As a Virginia delegate to the first Continental Congress, he was looked upon by all as the strongest man in that notable assemblage.

That his ability was recognized outside of his own state is shown by the call from New England that he become Commander-in-chief of the American Army. How he inspired this tattered, ill-fed organization to fight better than they really knew—how he led them to final victory at Yorktown—how he overcame the greatest obstacles through his faith in God and his innate ability to handle men, are facts too well known to be repeated here.

There is a lamentable tendency on the part of many present-day historians and teachers to over-emphasize the faults and mistakes of this man whose patience and endurance, whose ability to hold in check large forces with small armies imperfectly equipped, whose power to keep his country up to the support of a great cause, mark him as one of the world's greatest leaders.

Washington presented a physically striking picture, being tall, well-built, and of distinguished appearance. He was educated out of experience, and had absorbed much, but could hardly be called a scholar. As a soldier he was neither a Hannibal nor a Napoleon, but just a great leader of the later Grant and Lee type. He could face defeat with calmness, and in victory give credit where credit was due.

To Washington, silence was golden, and he thought and prayed much. In spite of his reserve it is a grave error to accuse him of coldness and lack of sympathy. By nature he was a man of strong desires and stormy passions, but the control of an iron will usually held these impulses in check.

"Washington looked facts squarely in the face—avoided idle dreaming—asked no impossibilities—was just to others as to himself. He gave dignity as well as victory to his country and his cause."

G. Washington

JOHN ADAMS

SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term –*from* 1797 *to* 1801

Born October 30, 1735—Died July 4, 1826

JOHN ADAMS

IN the township of Braintree, Massachusetts, on the 30th of October, 1735, was born John Adams, the man who was destined to fall heir to the task of carrying on the administration policy of President Washington. His parents were well-bred New Englanders whose ancestors had emigrated from Devonshire in 1632. John Adams refused his parents' offer of a portion of the family estate, but entered Harvard College at their expense, with the understanding that he was to make his own way in the world after graduation. After completing his college course he took up the study of the law and was admitted to practice in the year 1758.

He first became prominent in politics in 1765, when he opposed the Stamp Act and had his resolutions adopted by more than forty towns. This success was followed by his election to the General Congress of the Colonies, where he became one of its most active and energetic leaders. He was a member of the Committee which framed the Declaration of Independence.

John Adams served his country brilliantly in the Foreign Service for ten years, as commissioner to France, to Holland, and finally as ambassador to the court of his former sovereign. For these services he was voted the thanks of Congress. He was elected to the Vice-Presidency under Washington, and in 1796 was chosen President over Jefferson and Pinckney, after the refusal of Washington to accept another term.

His administration was a stormy one and included a breach with France, and a naval war. His Cabinet was seldom in sympathy with him, and in 1800 he removed Pickering, his Secretary of State, in favor of John Marshall. This meant a formal breach between the Adams and the Hamilton wings of the party. Thus, owing to a division of his own friends, rather than to a lack of public confidence, he was defeated for re-election by Thomas Jefferson.

Adams retired with dignity to private life and gave his whole-hearted support to him who had been his rival – who had become his successor – but who never ceased to be his friend. His death on July 4, 1826 – the day of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Act of Independence – was preceded only a few hours earlier on the same day by the death of Thomas Jefferson.

John Adams was a sound scholar, with a style in writing that was forcible and at times brilliant. He was of medium height, extremely courteous in manner, and of dignified and manly address. His great patriotism is best shown by his own words to a royalist friend, at a time when it was his to choose between England and the Colonies: "To swim or sink, live or die, survive or perish with my country is my unalterable determination".

John Adams

THOMAS JEFFERSON

THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served two terms—*from* 1801 *to* 1809

Born April 13, 1743—Died July 4, 1826

THOMAS JEFFERSON

"RESISTANCE to tyrants is obedience to God"—was the motto engraved on a seal owned by a young Virginian who was destined to become the third president of the United States—and to this principle he held throughout a long and eventful life.

Thomas Jefferson was born in Shadwell, Albemarle County, Virginia, April 13, 1743. His family was among the earliest to emigrate from England. His early education was entrusted to a private tutor, but in 1760 he entered William and Mary College, where he was a brilliant student and a leader in social functions. After two years of college work he took up the study of law, and in 1767 applied for admission to the bar.

At the age of thirty-two he became a member of the Second Continental Congress, but that body was not far-sighted enough to accept the republican doctrine of Jefferson that independence of England was the only course to pursue.

In 1776 Jefferson's ideals were triumphant and to him fell the honor of drafting the immortal document which called for a government "by, for, and of the people."

After accomplishing this great task, Jefferson retired from Congress and served in the Virginia Legislature for three years. Many of the laws he proposed showed that he was far ahead of his time, but later on practically all of his measures became laws. He was Governor of Virginia during the trying days of 1779 to 1781, and in 1783 he entered the Congress of the United States. He was sent on a mission to France in 1784 and succeeded Benjamin Franklin as Minister Plenipotentiary to the French Court. On returning to America, he became Secretary of State in Washington's Cabinet, where he opposed Hamilton's measures which called for exercise of extensive powers by Congress.

After four years retirement to his Monticello farm, Jefferson came back to public life as vice-president, and boldly defended the theory of State Sovereignity. With this doctrine as a main plank, he was elected president in 1801—was re-elected in 1805—and served until 1809. His first term was the more successful and included the great Louisiana Purchase from France. His second term was taken up by trade wars with England and France, and wrangling over the Embargo Act which Congress was finally forced to repeal.

In 1809 Jefferson again retired to Monticello, where he spent the remaining days of his life. Many prominent people came there to consult him on economic and political problems, and his hospitality was so great that he was bankrupt when he died in 1826—breathing his last on July fourth.

Jefferson's greatest appeals to fame are inscribed on his tomb at Monticello—"Author of the Declaration of Independence—Author of the Statutes of Virginia for Religious Freedom—Father of the University of Virginia."

Th Jefferson

JAMES MADISON

FOURTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served two terms—*from* 1809 *to* 1817

Born March 16, 1751—Died June 28, 1836

JAMES MADISON

THE fourth president of the United States was born in King George County, Virginia, on March 16th, 1751. His father owned large landed estates in Virginia and was a man of great distinction in his county. Princeton College was the alma mater selected for his son and there James Madison had a brilliant academic career. He graduated in 1771 and continued his studies at home after taking an extra year at college.

As delegate to the Continental Congress in 1779, Madison first displayed those powers which ultimately made him the founder of the constitution of the United States. He was among the first to urge the granting of additional powers to Congress.

Returning to the Virginia legislature after his term in Congress had expired, Madison continued to preach the doctrine that the good of the states could best be advanced through a strong and respected central government.

These ideas took definite form in an outline of a new system of government to replace the articles of confederation. Madison drew this up in 1787 and on September 17 at the convention in Philadelphia his plan was the basis of deliberations which resulted in the adoption of the Constitution. As a delegate from Virginia he took a leading part in the debates and his influence played a large part in forming the final draft. He then joined forces with Jay and Hamilton in the publication of the famous *Federalist* which met all the objections to the constitution and placed it before the people in its true light.

Thus, before his election to the presidency, Madison performed his greatest service for his country.

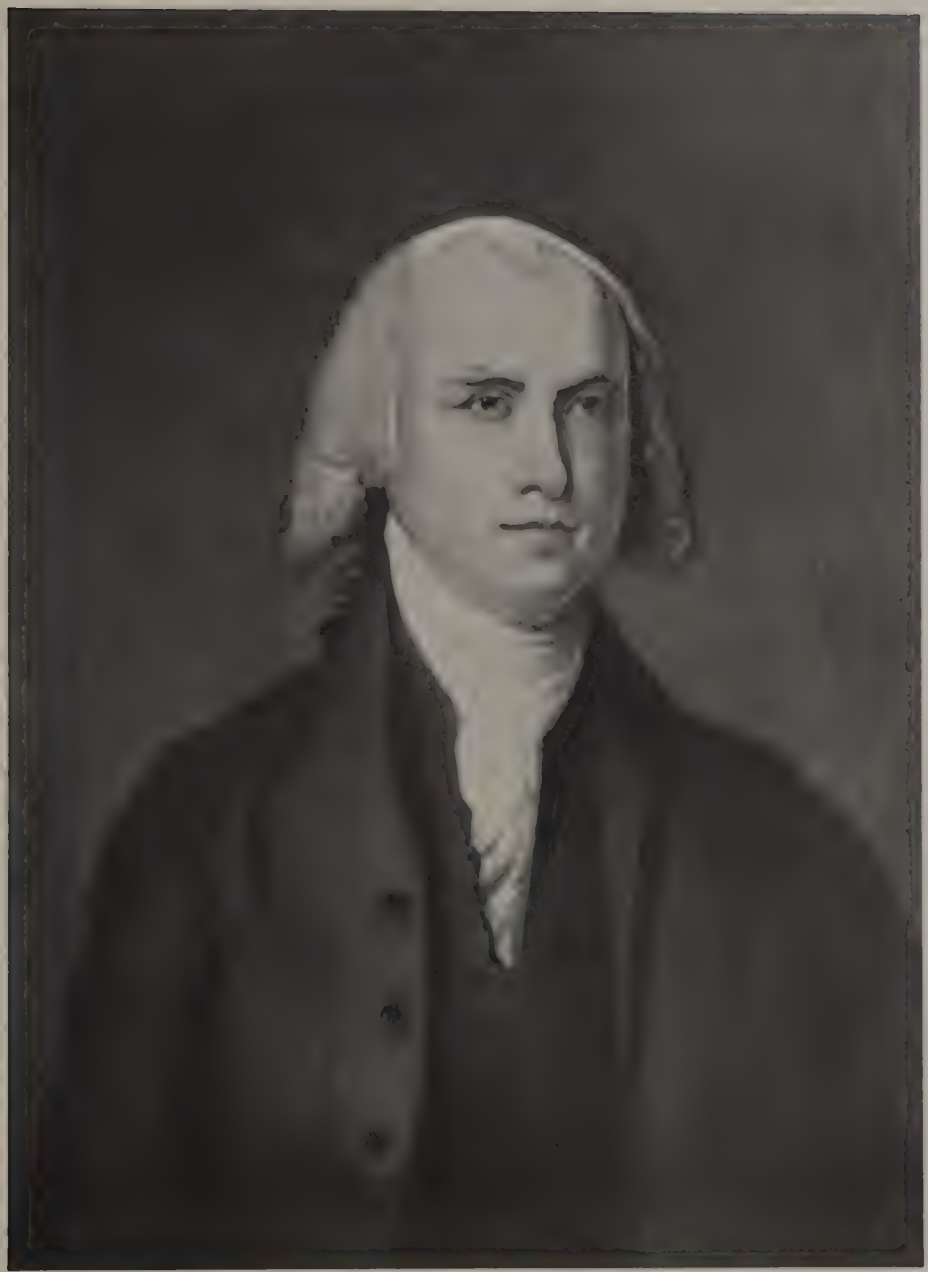
In 1801, when the Republican Party rose to power, Madison became Secretary of State in Jefferson's cabinet. If ever a man was fitted for an office of this kind, James Madison was that man—well versed in international and constitutional law, and possessing that calmness and fairness in discussion which make an ideal diplomat.

He was honored with the presidency in 1809 and served for two terms. He tried to continue Jefferson's peace policy of commercial restrictions on Great Britain and France, but in 1812 was forced by his party to embrace a policy of war.

Unfortunately Madison was not a great leader for a situation of this kind. Several cabinet members had been forced upon him by a clique in the Senate, and the administration could hardly be called a strong one during the war of 1812-15.

In 1817 he retired to Montpelier, his country seat in Virginia, where he engaged himself in agricultural pursuits and kept up his interest in literature and politics.

James Madison passed away June 28th, 1836. During his life his mild and conciliatory character won for him the friendship and confidence of all, even his bitterest political opponents.



James Madison

JAMES MONROE

FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served two terms—*from* 1817 *to* 1825

Born April 28, 1758—Died July 4, 1831

JAMES MONROE

AMES MONROE, our fifth president, was born on April 28, 1758, in Westmoreland County, Virginia. The family ancestry can be traced back to the Scottish Cavaliers.

Monroe left his studies at the college of William and Mary in 1776 to join the Continental Army, serving as lieutenant in the New Jersey campaign. He was wounded at Trenton, and the following year was promoted to a captaincy.

In 1780 he took up the study of law under the tutelage of Thomas Jefferson, who was then governor of Virginia.

The political life of Monroe began in the state legislature and was continued by his election to Congress, to the office of United States Senator, and his appointment by Washington as minister to France. He was later recalled from France because his outspoken enthusiasm in favor of the French Republic caused Washington and his advisers to fear that Monroe's zeal was not in keeping with the administration's neutral policy.

Monroe was three times governor of Virginia, and in 1803 was commissioned by Jefferson to aid Livingston, minister at Paris, in negotiating the purchase of territory from France which has become famous under the name of the Louisiana Purchase. After this he was sent as minister to England, where he joined Pinckney in drawing up a treaty to replace the Jay treaty which expired in that year. The document was a failure as it did not furnish sufficient protection to American seamen against impressment.

As Secretary of State and later at the head of the war department, Monroe infused his energy and vigor into the conduct of the War of 1812.

James Monroe was elected president in 1816 and again in 1820. As many of the party issues were dead, his administration has been called "the era of good feeling." He chose his cabinet wisely, and with the absence of foreign complications, he bent his energies to the economic development of the country. He also accomplished the purchase of Florida from Spain, a task which he had failed to do while minister to England.

In his seventh annual message to Congress in December, 1823, the president formulated the celebrated "Monroe Doctrine." This created a sentiment which has been used ever since as a basis of discussion in formulating the foreign policy of the United States. This doctrine of non-interference of European powers in the affairs of the American continents causes us to remember James Monroe more than any other act of his dignified and able career as a statesman.

On Independence Day, 1831, our fifth president breathed his last. He was a man of clean character and holds high rank as a wise and capable executive.

James Monroe

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

SIXTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term—*from* 1825 *to* 1829

Born July 11, 1767—Died February 23, 1848

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS was born on the 11th day of July, 1767, at Braintree, Massachusetts, the birthplace of his distinguished father.

He received most of his education in Europe while traveling with his father, spending some of the time at the University of Leyden. After extensive travel abroad he returned home to complete his education at Harvard. Three years later he was admitted to the bar.

Adams's first political service was rendered as ambassador to the Hague under Washington's administration, and at Berlin during his father's presidency. Jefferson recalled him and he took up the practice of law in Boston.

As a member of the Federal party Adams was elected to Congress, but when he voted for the *embargo* act, he lost his seat in the Senate. For the next three years he practiced law and held a professorship of rhetoric at Harvard.

The foreign service called him again during Madison's administration and he was entrusted with the embassy to St. Petersburg. During the war of 1812 he took part in the negotiations at Ghent which resulted in the treaty of peace signed in December, 1814. He then served for two years as minister at London, returning home to become secretary of state under President Monroe. In this office he won fame for himself by arranging a treaty with Spain in which the boundaries of Florida and Louisiana were defined. His skill as a scientist was shown by a clever report on weights and measures.

In 1824, there being no majority in the electoral college, the presidential election was thrown into the House of Representatives. John Quincy Adams was elected over Jackson, Clay, and Crawford His administration of one term was noted chiefly for the high protective tariff on foreign goods, to promote home industry. There was an attempt made to purchase Cuba from Spain, but this was unsuccessful.

Adams's principles of government were similar to those of his father. Both believed in a strong, energetic national administration and in extending the influence and prestige of the United States among foreign powers. On most of the important questions which arose during Adams's administration there was a division between the friends and opponents of the president rather than a difference in principles. Adams's term was really a four-year presidential campaign, with Jackson's supporters striving to make Adams odious in the eyes of the people.

Defeated by Jackson in 1828, Adams retired to Quincy, where he lived in comfort. He was returned to Congress by his district and remained in this office until his death in 1848.

Perhaps the greatest service of John Quincy Adams to his country and to humanity was his bold and determined opposition to slavery.

J. Q. Adams

ANDREW JACKSON

SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served two terms—*from* 1829 *to* 1837

Born March 15, 1767—Died June 8, 1845

ANDREW JACKSON

N MARCH 15, 1767, in an almost unknown settlement near the boundary line of the Carolinas, was born the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson. His parents had come there from Ireland two years before.

Although Jackson's education was somewhat irregular, he studied law at Salisbury, N. C., was admitted to the bar, and began to practice in Nashville. In 1791 he married Mrs. Rachel Robards, a divorcée.

The political career of Andrew Jackson began in the federal Congress, where he was an opponent of Washington, and as judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, but it was the military deeds of "Old Hickory" that brought his name before the public.

His skill as a military leader was first shown as major-general of militia against the Creek Indians in Georgia and Alabama. In 1815, as major-general in the regular army, he won the important battle of New Orleans, a severe blow to the English Army. In 1825, when the presidential election was thrown into the house of representatives, John Quincy Adams was the victor, but it was generally conceded by politicians of the day that Andrew Jackson's star was rising rapidly in the political firmament.

Jackson's vigorous, straightforward, almost Rooseveltian manner won the hearts of the new generation that was springing up. They hated tradition and wanted a progressive, powerful hand at the helm. In the election of 1828 Jackson received 178 electoral votes against 83 for Adams. In 1832 Jackson was re-elected over Clay by a large majority.

Jackson's administrations were occupied by strenuous debates over the re-charter of the Bank of the United States. During his second campaign the president vetoed the re-charter and he considered his re-election a public demonstration of approval. He therefore ordered the public deposits transferred to certain local banks, as an "experiment."

When Jackson became president he had no definite political opinions, but when he retired he left a strongly organized party, in favor of economy, payment of the debt, and low taxes. His strong desire for a specie currency, however, precipitated a credit crisis between America and Europe through the calling of their loans by the national deposit banks. Cotton fell in price and there was a financial and industrial crash which lasted for several years after the close of Jackson's term.

Jackson was a colorful president. He trusted freely in his advisers, was not suspicious, but when once he lost confidence in anyone or anything, nothing on earth could change him. He had a will of iron and possessed unlimited courage.

His last years were spent quietly in retirement. He died on June 8th, 1845.

Andrew Jackson

MARTIN VAN BUREN

EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term—*from* 1837 *to* 1841

Born December 5, 1782—Died July 24, 1862

MARTIN VAN BUREN

MARTIN VAN BUREN was born at Kinderhook, New York, on the fifth of December, 1782. The son of a farmer, he received his education at the village school and then took up the study of law at the age of fourteen. He was admitted to the bar in 1803.

The youthful Van Buren had a winning personality which made many friends, and aided him greatly in achieving a rapid rise, professionally and politically. He was soon chosen surrogate of Columbia County, elected to the state legislature four years later, and in 1815 he was attorney-general of the state. While holding this office he proved himself to be a leading spirit in a new school of Democracy which was rapidly gaining strength and prominence under the name of the "Albany regency." In 1821 he was elected to the United States Senate and in the same year was chosen a member of the convention for revising the state constitution. Van Buren urged an extension of the franchise but was an opponent of universal suffrage. In 1828 he became Governor of New York State.

In March 1829 Van Buren was Secretary of State in Andrew Jackson's cabinet, and was also appointed minister to England, but the Senate refused to ratify the appointment on the ground that he had shown too submissive an attitude toward Great Britain. The following year Van Buren became vice-president, and in 1836 was elected to the presidency of the United States.

When Van Buren entered office the country was in the grip of a serious and wide-spread commercial crisis, due to the financial policies of the previous administration. The president strove desperately and skilfully to put an end to the depression, but the "bad times" which existed during his term brought about the defeat of his party at the next election and killed his chance for another term.

During his presidency Van Buren established the independent treasury system and secured the passage of the pre-emption law which gave to public land settlers the preference in their purchase.

Although nominated again for the presidency in 1840, Van Buren suffered defeat by a large majority. In 1844 a large body of Democratic delegates were pledged to support his nomination, but his opposition to the annexation of Texas caused them to move for a two-thirds vote. When he failed to get a majority, his name was withdrawn. Again in 1848 the anti-slavery section of the Democratic party nominated Van Buren for president but the split in the party brought about defeat. Van Buren spent the rest of his life in retirement on his Kinderhook estate. He died there on July 24th, 1862.

M. Van Buren.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

NINTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Died after serving one month of his term

Born February 9, 1773—Died April 4, 1841

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

THE ninth president of the United States was born at Berkeley, Virginia, February ninth, 1773. At the age of nineteen he was commissioned ensign in the army and was soon given a lieutenancy. He served as aide-de-camp to General Wayne in his campaign against the western Indians. He was chosen to represent the North-West Territory in Congress, and later became governor of Indiana after the division of the territory in 1801.

An Indian war broke out in 1811 and Harrison won the important battle of Tippecanoe. He became a major-general in 1813 and defeated the British forces at the battle of the Thames. He resigned his commission in 1814 after concluding a treaty with the North-Western Indians. In 1816 General Harrison was elected to Congress, in 1819 a member of the State Senate of Ohio, and later United States Senator. In 1828 he went as minister to Colombia, but retired to private life after holding the office for less than a year.

The Whig party induced General Harrison to run for the presidency of the United States in 1836 but he was defeated by Van Buren. The election of 1840 was quite another story. The campaign was one of great excitement and enthusiasm. The Whigs sought Harrison's election as an opposition measure, with their objective to oust the Democrats and their drastic policies. Therefore, after their candidate had been elected, the Whigs at once began to prepare a series of reforms.

The country had been in great distress because of the financial troubles of both government and people. A session of Congress was therefore called to devise ways and means of relief. Mr. Clay's programme included the repeal of the Independent Treasury Act, establishment of a new national bank, the raising of a temporary loan, the laying of permanent tariff duties, and the distribution of the funds from the sale of public lands among the states.

General Harrison, an earnest, straightforward, ingenuous man of the people, and a military hero of the time, was a true Whig, and Clay's programme would probably have been stamped with his approval. But General Harrison was far along in years and was nearing seventy. His campaign had been an exciting one and he had been greatly worn out by the efforts he had put forth. After becoming president he had plunged into the duties of his office without regard for health or strength.

This was more than the once vigorous frame of the old soldier could stand. One month after his inauguration he suddenly sickened and passed away. Public office had been too much for the man who had been a fearless leader on the battlefield. When John Tyler succeeded General Harrison it was the first time in the history of the United States that a vice-president became chief executive through the death of the president.

W H Harrison

JOHN TYLER

TENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
Completed term of Wm. Henry Harrison (1841-1845)
Born March 29, 1790—Died January 18, 1862

JOHN TYLER

JOHN TYLER, the first vice-president in the history of our country to succeed to the office of president through the death of the chief executive, was born at Greenway, Virginia, March 29th, 1790. His ancestors were of English origin and claimed relationship to the celebrated Wat Tyler of the time of Richard II. His father was Judge John Tyler, a governor of Virginia.

Young Tyler received his education at the grammar school of William and Mary, after which he took up the study of law. He was admitted to the bar in 1809 and rapidly rose to prominence in his profession. His political career began with his election to the State legislature in 1811.

In the war times of 1813 Tyler organized a military company in Richmond and led them through two campaigns. In 1816 he was elected to the House of Representatives where his brilliancy in debate won him great fame. He was twice elected governor of Virginia, after which he became a senator. In the senate he opposed Clay on the tariff question but voted in favor of Clay's Compromise Bill of 1833. Tyler was a *strict constructionist* and was friendly to the slavery system. He opposed the re-charter of the Bank of the United States and also Jackson's removal of the deposits. During the Missouri debates he firmly held to the principle that Congress had no constitutional right to prohibit slavery in the Territories.

In view of all this, it is strange that John Tyler should have been chosen by the Whig party as a running mate for General Harrison in 1840. The truth of the matter was that the Whigs selected him only because he had refused to submit to Democratic dictation and they also wished to make sure of the support of a doubtful southern group.

Soon after the inauguration in 1841, President Harrison died, and John Tyler became president, much to the embarrassment of the Whig leaders in Congress. Instead of a Whig president, they had a Southerner who was in many respects a Democrat.

The president signed the bill repealing the Independent Treasury Act, but twice he placed his veto on the National Bank Bill, much to the disgust of Clay and the party leaders. The Whig members of Congress publicly repudiated the president, and his entire cabinet resigned with the exception of Daniel Webster, Secretary of State. After the signing of the Ashburton Treaty with England, Mr. Webster also resigned.

There was a great lack of harmony in Tyler's second Congress. The Whig majority in the House had vanished, but the Senate remained Whig as before. Added to this was the discord between the president and both houses. Therefore it was not strange that there was little legislation of importance effected.

One very important question was finally settled in 1845 just before Tyler retired from office. After months of debate a joint resolution in favor of the annexation of Texas was passed by both houses and signed by the president.

John Tyler spent the remainder of his life in retirement from active duties. He died at Richmond on January 18th, 1862.

John Tyler

JAMES K. POLK

ELEVENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term—*from* 1845 *to* 1849

Born November 2, 1795—Died June 15, 1849

JAMES K. POLK

IN Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, on the second of November 1795, a son was born to Samuel and Jane Polk. During succeeding years nine other children were born to this couple, but James, the eldest, was destined to bring fame to the name of Polk as the eleventh President of the United States.

In his early youth, young Polk assisted his father in the management of the farm and accompanied him on surveying expeditions. He was then sent to school, and after ill health forced his withdrawal, he was placed with a merchant. A commercial future did not appeal to this youth however, and he was allowed to leave business. Entering the University of North Carolina as a sophomore in 1815, he graduated as salutatorian of his class in 1818. After admission to the bar in 1820, he attracted the attention of Andrew Jackson, so brilliant and popular was his style of oratory.

James K. Polk first entered public life as Chief Clerk to the Tennessee House of Representatives, where his shrewdness in debate, his firmness and ability, and untiring industry brought him well-deserved fame. In 1825 he was elected to Congress and was re-elected at every succeeding election until he withdrew to become a candidate for Governor. While a member of Congress, Polk gave loyal and enthusiastic support to the Jackson and Van Buren administrations. He was Speaker of the House during five sessions.

In 1838 the disheartened democrats of Tennessee desired the "strongest man in the party" as their candidate for Governor. This honor was conferred on James K. Polk, and the wisdom of their choice was shown by Mr. Polk's election in 1839. The Whig avalanche which swept General Harrison into the White House prevented Governor Polk's re-election in 1841 and 1843.

The annexation of Texas was a much discussed issue in American politics at this time, and Polk, in a forcible and unhesitating letter, came out in favor of admitting the new State. This letter was a stepping stone to the presidential chair, and the Baltimore Convention of 1844 lost no time in naming this frank and fearless democrat as its candidate, with George M. Dallas as his running-mate. Mr. Polk accepted the nomination with the understanding that he should not be a candidate for re-election. He was elected over Henry Clay by about 40,000 majority.

Two of the most important events of the Polk administration were the Mexican War and the Oregon boundary dispute with England. The war with Mexico was successfully carried on and resulted in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo by which New Mexico and California were ceded to the United States. The Oregon dispute raised the battle-cry of "fifty-four forty or fight," but war was averted by the action of Congress in accepting the compromise proposed by the British Government.

True to his word Mr. Polk retired from office March 4th, 1849. His untiring devotion to the duties of his office had broken down his never robust health, and he died on June 15th of the same year.

James K. Polk was a great President. "Never fanciful or extreme, he was ever solid, firm and consistent. His administration, viewed from the standpoint of results, was perhaps the greatest in our national history, certainly one of the greatest."

James K. Polk

ZACHARY TAYLOR

TWELFTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served part of one term—*from* 1849 *to* 1850

Born September 24, 1784—Died July 9, 1850

ZACHARY TAYLOR

IN NOVEMBER 1849 old Father Time scratched down a figure seven on his tally-sheet in the column headed by the word Virginia, as the news was spread abroad of the election of General Zachary Taylor to the presidency of the United States. For General Taylor was the seventh native Virginian to be thus honored.

Zachary Taylor was born in Orange County on September 24th, 1784, and was the third son of Colonel Richard Taylor, who had fought with conspicuous bravery in the war of the Revolution. He brought up his family on a farm in a new settlement where there was little chance for school training, but his boys learned their lessons in hard work, thrift and self-sacrifice.

Zachary Taylor spent many of his spare moments in listening to tales of military life and adventure from the lips of Colonel Taylor's former army associates, so it was not surprising that he applied for a commission in the infantry being organized in 1808 on the recommendation of President Jefferson. The war of 1812 brought the fear of Indian uprisings in the Wabash Valley and Captain Taylor was ordered to Fort Harrison to protect the neighboring town of Vincennes. The gallant and successful defense of the fort changed Taylor's title from Captain to Major, and was the real beginning of a series of brilliant military exploits. The threatened invasion of Texas by Mexico in 1845 gave Taylor his greatest opportunity for military service to his country. He won decisive victories at *Fort Brown* and *Monterey*, and finally brought peace to the valley of the Rio Grande by the sweeping repulse of General Santa Anna at *Buena Vista.*

General Taylor had no decided political views, no desire to hold public office, and had looked forward to a life of peace and quiet on his stock farm in the Jefferson County hills after retiring from the army. But fate decreed otherwise; for the fact that the general was the popular hero of a victorious foreign war and that his opinions were not molded by party or sectional feeling, brought about his nomination and election to the presidency.

Deeply conscious of his limited knowledge of governmental affairs, the president selected his cabinet from those men who could best advise him. Although elected by the Whigs, President Taylor allowed no party feeling to keep an able Democrat from holding office. The administration started quietly to function, but the clouds of dissention soon began to gather. For seven months there were heated debates in the Senate over the admission of California, the question of slavery in the new territories, and the fugitive slave law.

In the midst of this strife the nation was shocked by the news of President Taylor's death. He had exposed himself to the heat while attending ceremonies on July 4th, was seized with a fever, and passed away on July 9th, 1850

Zachary Taylor

MILLARD FILLMORE

THIRTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served part of one term—*from* 1850 *to* 1853

Born February 7, 1800—Died March 7, 1874

MILLARD FILLMORE

MILLARD FILLMORE was born in a log cabin in the township of Locke (now called Summerhill), Cayuga County, New York, on the seventh of February, 1800. His father, Nathaniel Fillmore, had served with valor in the French and the Revolutionary wars, and his creed could be summed up in two words, "do right". Lieutenant Fillmore lived to see his son become the chief executive of the United States.

A faulty title caused Nathaniel Fillmore to lose his land and he was forced to lease an unimproved tract in the same county. On this farm his second son, Millard, toiled for nine months of the year and during the other three attended the poorly equipped schools of the neighborhood. The new farm was not a success and the elder Fillmore soon decided that his sons should not be farmers. Millard, then a youth of fourteen, was apprenticed to a wool-carding and cloth-dressing merchant, but unfair treatment caused him to return to his father's home at the end of his term. In 1815 he re-entered the carding business but before the end of his apprenticeship he decided to become a lawyer.

Millard Fillmore's political career began with a splendid record made during a three-year term in the New York State Legislature. Between 1832 and 1842 he served four terms in Congress, declining a renomination in 1842. He was the author of the successful tariff act of 1842, which brought new life to our industrial system and strengthened our national credit.

In 1848 the Whig party nominated and elected Taylor and Fillmore. Mr. Fillmore presided over the senate in firm and dignified manner during the stormy debate over Clay's "omnibus bill". After seven months of wrangling, the nation was shocked by the sudden death of President Taylor. In this critical hour Millard Fillmore was inaugurated as President of the United States in the Hall of Representatives before both Houses, but without pomp or showy ceremony, out of respect to the dead President.

President Fillmore's burning desire was to maintain peace. His actions were not guided by thoughts of his party or himself but by his determination to serve his country and keep her from war and bloodshed. His administration was characterized by wisdom, usefulness, and patriotism, but the signing and attempted enforcement of the fugitive-slave law cost the President the friendship and support of most of the northern Whigs. Many of Mr. Fillmore's scholarly measures failed of adoption owing to a political minority in both Houses. He did put through legislation which brought about cheap postage, and by means of the Perry treaty, the ports of Japan were opened. His foreign policy was strictly one of non-intervention.

Mr. Fillmore retired from the Presidency on March 4th, 1853, leaving the country "at peace with other lands and within her own borders, and in the enjoyment of a high degree of prosperity in all the various departments of industry." He died after a short illness in March, 1874, at the age of seventy-four.

"One public act, honestly performed, cost him his popularity, ... but it is doubtful if he left an enemy on earth."

Millard Fillmore

FRANKLIN PIERCE

FOURTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term—*from* 1853 *to* 1857

Born November 23, 1804—Died October 8, 1869

FRANKLIN PIERCE

ON that eventful day in 1776 when the embattled farmers "fired the shot heard 'round the world," one Benjamin Pierce, a patriot of New Hampshire, enlisted in the continental army. He was a staunch Republican of the Jefferson school, admired Andrew Jackson ardently, was the leader of his party in his own state, and became its governor in 1827 and 1829.

Fortunate indeed was Franklin Pierce to be born the son of such a father. Hillsborough, N. H., was the birthplace and November 23rd, 1804 the birthday of our fourteenth president. His father believed his son was destined for a brilliant future and provided a good education for him in the schools at Hancock, Francestown, and Exeter. Ranking third in his class, he graduated from Bowdoin College in 1824, after which he attended law school in Northampton, Mass., and in the office of Judge Edmund Parker at Amherst, N. H. He was admitted to the bar in 1827.

The brilliance and popularity of Franklin Pierce soon drew him into politics. In 1837 he became the youngest member of the United States Senate, surrounded by such "intellectual giants" as Clay, Calhoun and Webster.

When war came with Mexico in 1846, Pierce enrolled as a private and rose to the rank of brigadier-general. Like his father, General Pierce proved to be a valiant and inspiring leader.

At the Democratic national convention at Baltimore in June 1852, General Pierce's name was suddenly presented on the thirty-ninth ballot after no other name could win a majority. He was nominated on the forty-ninth ballot, and was easily elected President of the United States over General Winfield Scott, the Whig candidate.

President Pierce selected a cabinet of eminent men who remained at their posts for four years; the first time this had happened in the history of our nation. Several disputes with other countries threatened trouble for the administration, but all were settled peacefully by negotiation. An important treaty opening the ports of Japan was ratified in 1854. The famous "Ostend manifesto" of October 9th, in the same year, was intended to prevent Spain from "Africanizing" Cuba.

Had it not been for slavery and the disputes growing out of it, General Pierce's administration "would have passed into history as one of the most successful in our national life." But the President's policy was based on the doctrine that slavery was an institution guaranteed by the constitution and therefore it was the duty of the government to protect it. He supported the repeal of the Missouri Compromise reluctantly, and in the "belief that the measure would satisfy the South and thus avert from the country the doom of civil war and disunion."

General Pierce was not renominated in 1856. After an extended tour abroad, he returned to his home at Concord where he died October 8, 1869.

Franklin Pierce

JAMES BUCHANAN

FIFTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term—*from* 1857 *to* 1861

Born April 23, 1791—Died June 1, 1868

JAMES BUCHANAN

JAMES BUCHANAN was born near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, on April 23rd, 1791. He entered Dickinson College from the school in Mercersburg, graduating in 1809. The stormy days of 1812 saw the beginning of Buchanan's law practice at Lancaster and two years later he was elected to the lower house of his state legislature. After serving a second term he intended to retire from public life, but the death of his *fiancée* caused him to seek distraction of thought. He therefore accepted a nomination to Congress and was elected, serving during the administrations of President Monroe, John Quincy Adams, and General Jackson.

In 1831 President Jackson persuaded Buchanan to again give up a plan for retirement so that he might accept a mission to Russia. He successfully negotiated a commercial treaty to promote an increase of trade between the United States and the Muscovites, and so favorably impressed Czar Nicholas, that he wrote to President Jackson: "Your foreign policy has had no small influence on public opinion throughout Europe."

Returning home in 1833, Mr. Buchanan was elected to the United States Senate the following year. Slavery was the burning question of debate during these days and Buchanan contended that Congress had no power to interfere with slavery in those states where it existed although personally he was opposed to the system.

When the Whigs came into power under President Taylor, Mr. Buchanan retired to his estate, known as "Wheatland." He kept up his interest in public affairs and, as a private individual, he lent great influence to his party by writing public letters. He was the democratic presidential candidate in 1852, but was defeated by General Pierce. The President later appealed to Buchanan to accept the important mission as minister to England. Duty to his country outweighed his distaste for life abroad and the portfolio was accepted.

The election to the Presidency of James Buchanan in 1856 over General Fremont, the republican and anti-slavery candidate, foreshadowed the sectional division that was to come. The President managed our foreign relations with great wisdom. His only equals in the executive office in the management of foreign relations were Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams. Though opposed to slavery, the President was a conservative who believed that the interference of the northern *abolitionists* in the domestic affairs of the South would bring about a condition dangerous to internal peace and harmony. He pleaded for conciliatory legislation, but Congress ignored his pleas. The press and pulpit of the North denounced him and his policies, with the result that Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860.

Mr. Buchanan returned to "Wheatland," rejoicing to be free from the cares of a long and responsible public life." He lived quietly on his estate until his death on June 1, 1868.

James Buchanan

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

SIXTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one full term and part of another—*from* 1861 *to* 1865

Born February 12, 1809—Died April 15, 1865

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the son of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, on February twelfth, 1809. His early education was obtained from the backwoods teachers of the wild region in which he lived, and from his own constant study of whatever books he could find.

After being mustered out of the military service in 1832, young Lincoln sought election to the state legislature. Being defeated in this, his first political venture, he bought out a store in New Salem by means of notes, but his partner was an idler and the business was soon on the rocks. He then turned to the study of law, paying his expenses with the small emoluments earned as postmaster, and as deputy to the county surveyor. In 1834 he was elected to the legislature at the head of the list. After his third term he declined further election and removed to Springfield where he entered into law partnership with John T. Stuart. Lincoln's excellent record in the legislature won him a seat in Congress, but he served only one term as his interest in politics at this time was at a low ebb.

The repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused Lincoln from his political lethargy and when Senator Douglas, the champion of slavery, sought re-election in 1858, Mr. Lincoln agreed to run against him and to challenge him to a series of debates on the slavery issue. These discussions aroused great national interest and showed Lincoln to be one of the leading orators of the Republican party. Consequently, he was nominated for the presidency in 1860, and elected over Douglas, Breckinridge, and Bell.

President Lincoln's task, as he himself admitted, was "more difficult than that of Washington." The bombardment of Fort Sumter ushered in the inevitable war, and Mr. Lincoln at once called for and obtained a volunteer army. By 1862, the President decided to make the war a war against slavery as well as a war for the Union. Using the victory at *Antietam* as his opportune moment he issued the historic Emancipation Proclamation which set free the negroes in those territories occupied by the federal armies.

The war continued with some success for the North, but also with considerable failure. Defeats at *Fredericksburg* and *Chancellorsville* were offset by the victory over Lee's army at *Gettysburg*. Mr. Lincoln's address in 1863 at the dedication of the National Cemetery on this famous field has become a classic.

In spite of the opposition of some dissatisfied radicals and the ridiculous nomination of General McClellan by the Democrats, the election of 1864 resulted in an easy victory for Mr. Lincoln. Almost immediately after his second inauguration came the surrender of General Lee to General Grant at *Appomattox Court House*, and then the end of the war.

But the shouts of victory were soon to be hushed by a great tragedy. While attending a play at Ford's theatre in Washington the President was shot by John Wilkes Booth, a half-crazed supporter of the rebel cause, and the nation was deprived of its best assurance of a wise reconstruction policy.

A. Lincoln

ANDREW JOHNSON

SEVENTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served part of one term—*from* 1865 *to* 1869

Born December 29, 1808—Died July 31, 1875

ANDREW JOHNSON

NE September day in the year 1826, a young journeyman tailor named Andrew Johnson, with his mother and step-father as companions, started for Greenville, Tennessee, in a two-wheeled cart drawn by a blind pony. Johnson's native town of Raleigh, North Carolina, had contributed but little to his education, because a tailor's shears and flat-iron had been his chief interest in life from the age of ten years. The move to Greenville was important because it was here he married Miss Eliza McCardle, a cultured and refined woman, who taught him to write, and who read to him during his daily working hours.

Mr. Johnson was elected alderman for three successive terms and held the office of mayor for three years. After representing his county in the state legislature for several terms, he was elected to congress in 1843, where he warmly supported the annexation of Texas. His election to the governorship came ten years later, after which he was honored by being elected to the United States Senate. Here he took a prominent part in the debates, but adopted a decided "on the fence" policy. The slave-holders disliked his extreme Unionism, while the Republicans looked askance at his acceptance of slavery as a constitutional institution. When he finally saw civil war in the offing, he came out boldly with a declaration against secession and announced that he would stand by the constitution. Mr. Johnson remained in the Senate until appointed military governor of Tennessee by President Lincoln. It was Johnson's courage that aided Nashville in its successful defense against a Confederate attack, and it was his autocratic rule, tempered by discretion, that brought strength to the Union cause in Tennessee.

The Republican Convention of 1864, which renominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency by acclamation, favored the naming of a Democrat for Vice-President as a reward for the political sacrifices made by the war "Democrats" for the Union cause, and Andrew Johnson's name was selected.

The great tragedy of the nation occurred on April 14, 1865, and Mr. Johnson was at once sworn in as president by Chief-Justice Chase. The new president had given the impression that he was not in accord with the humane policies of Lincoln, and that his attitude toward the South would be stern and vindictive. Mr. Johnson's actions soon showed that too great a leniency was to be feared, rather than too much bitterness. The Republican Congress and the Democratic president were soon exchanging blow for blow in perhaps the most sensational contest of its kind in the nation's history. The president held that the seceded states had never been out of the Union, and, upon application, should be readmitted. Congress declared they could be admitted or rejected at will.

The climax of this unfortunate clash came in 1867 when the president demanded the resignation of Mr. Stanton as Secretary of War. Mr. Stanton refused and the house passed a resolution to impeach the president. At the trial a vote of thirty-five to nineteen saved Mr. Johnson. One more vote for conviction would have been fatal.

At the expiration of his term he returned to Tennessee. While on a visit at his daughter's home he was stricken with paralysis and died July 31, 1875.

Andrew Johnson

ULYSSES S. GRANT

EIGHTEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served two terms—*from* 1869 *to* 1877

Born April 27, 1822—Died July 23, 1885

ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT

POINT PLEASANT, Clermont County, Ohio, was the birthplace of Ulysses S. Grant, and here he spent his early boyhood days helping his father with the farm work. The oldest of six children, he attended the village school up to the time of his appointment as cadet in the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was an excellent student at the academy and proved himself the best horseman in his class. After graduation he received the commission of a brevet Second Lieutenant, and two years later joined General Taylor's army of occupation in Mexico, taking an active and conspicuous part in most of the important engagements of the war. His valor and coolness under fire won him a first lieutenancy.

Grant advanced to the rank of captain before resigning from the service to engage in farming and real estate near St. Louis. In 1860 he removed to Galena, Illinois, to enter the hardware business of his father, but in a year's time came the capture of Fort Sumter and the outbreak of the war. Captain Grant at once declared himself for the Union cause and offered his services to the Government in a letter which was never answered. Governor Yates of Illinois, however, appointed him mustering officer of volunteers. He was soon advanced to the rank of colonel, and two months later to that of brigadier-general.

The capture of Fort Donelson by the forces under General Grant was the first important victory for the North from a strategic point of view, and was the beginning of his colorful career as the *Napoleon* of the Union Armies, ending with the crushing defeat of General Lee's forces and the surrender at Appomattox Court House. Everywhere Grant was hailed as the deliverer of his country and honors without number were heaped upon him.

A series of clashes then followed between the general and President Johnson over the former's refusal to approve the president's assumption of power over military affairs that Grant believed was vested only in Congress. Grant's position was delicate but he had the approval of the people, his popularity becoming so wide-spread that he was unanimously nominated for president on the first ballot at the Republican Convention in Chicago, 1868.

President Grant's first administration was both vigorous and progressive. The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, granting the right of suffrage without regard to race, color, or previous condition of servitude, was passed. Reconstruction in the south progressed rapidly, and stern measures were passed to check the conflicts between whites and blacks. Re-elected in 1872 by a large majority, President Grant continued the wise policies that characterized his first term. Positive in his views, he was a patient listener and not opposed to changing his mind if convinced by reason.

After retiring from office he went abroad with his wife and son. On his return he devoted his time to writing as a means of support, as two of the partners in his banking firm had defrauded him of all he possessed. Suffering from cancer, he completed his "Memoirs" just four days before his death. General Grant passed away on July 23, 1885.

U. S. Grant

RUTHERFORD BIRCHARD HAYES

NINETEENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term—*from* 1877 *to* 1881

Born October 4, 1822—Died January 17, 1893

RUTHERFORD BIRCHARD HAYES

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, the first of the "Ohio presidents," was born in Delaware, Ohio, October fourth, 1822. He received excellent preparation for college at two academies and entered Kenyon College at the age of sixteen. He graduated as valedictorian and at once took up the study of law with an attorney in Columbus. He later attended lectures at Harvard Law School, and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1845.

Mr. Hayes had always voted on the Whig side and had opposed slavery from the very first, so at the out-break of the war he was elected captain of the Union military company formed by his literary club. By the time peace came he held the rank of major-general, having served with conspicuous bravery in the West Virginia campaign of 1864, especially at the battles of Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek. While in the field General Hayes was nominated for Congress, but scorned the advice of friends who urged him to secure a furlough and "take the stump." He was elected by a majority of 2400, serving two terms and making a name for himself as a legislator of sound judgment and keen mind.

General Hayes twice served his native state as governor, winning the approval of both political parties by his administration of the executive office. He then desired to retire from political life but finally agreed to run for Congress. An anti-Republican sentiment at this time prevalent in Cincinnati brought about his defeat, and he retired to his newly established home at Fremont, only to be recalled by a unanimous nomination for the governorship as champion of the cause of a sound and stable currency. By this election Mr. Hayes won the distinction of being elected governor of his state three times, and the success of his campaign brought his name into prominence as a possible candidate for the presidency.

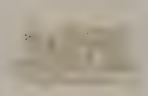
At the Republican convention of 1876, held at Cincinnati, Governor Hayes was nominated on the seventh ballot. His subsequent election to the presidency over the Democratic candidate, Samuel J. Tilden, gave rise to a long and bitter dispute over which party had carried three of the southern states. An Act of Congress, appointing a commission to settle all such disputes, was necessary to restore peace, the decision being rendered in favor of Hayes three days before the inauguration was scheduled.

General business stagnation proved a handicap to the administration at the start, but the new president's withdrawal of the Federal troops from the statehouses of South Carolina and Louisiana met with wide-spread approval in both north and south. The preparations for the resumption of specie payments and the funding of the public debt at lower interest rates went far to bring about a real business prosperity. Although retarded by a hostile Congress, the administration planted the seeds of a permanent civil-service reform. The people at large were well pleased with President Hayes, and the Republican victory of 1880 was largely due to this general feeling of satisfaction with a clean administration.

True to a pre-election vow, President Hayes retired to his home in Fremont after the expiration of his term. The last years of his life were devoted to philanthropic activities which kept him in close touch with men of prominence. He died at his home in Fremont on January seventeenth, 1893.

R. B. Hayes

JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD



TWENTIETH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served part of one term—1881

Born November 19, 1831—Died September 19, 1881

JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD

JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD was born in a lonely cabin in the "Wilderness" settlement of Orange, Ohio, on November nineteenth, 1831. His father died at the age of thirty-three, leaving four small children, of whom James was the youngest. Mrs. Garfield, with unlimited courage and devotion, faced the task of bringing up her family amid the hardships of the frontier. Beginning his education at the age of three in the log-hut school, James progressed rapidly and by the time he had become fourteen he had a fair knowledge of arithmetic, grammar and American history. He devoured every book he could find in the poorly equipped libraries of that section, even learning some by heart. While a student at Geauga Seminary in Chester, Ohio, he met Miss Lucretia Rudolph, his future wife. From Chester he entered Hiram Eclectic Institute, where his perseverance and thirst for knowledge soon enabled him to master Latin, algebra, and botany. After three years at Hiram he selected Williams College as his *alma mater*, and it was there, under the scholarly influence of Mark Hopkins, that James A. Garfield first began to show the signs of superiority that were to make him a conspicuous figure. After graduation, Garfield returned to teach Latin and Greek at Hiram, and at the age of twenty-six he was made its president. The moral issue in politics however soon drew his interest and, although not seeking office, he was elected to the Ohio State Senate.

When the war came, this farmer, carpenter, student, teacher, lawyer, preacher, and legislator was commissioned a lieutenant-colonel. With 1100 men he won the important battle of Middle Creek against a force of 5000, for which service he was made brigadier-general. For gallantry in action during the campaign in Middle Tennessee he received the rank of major-general. Although fascinated with his military career, General Garfield at this time put aside personal ambition in response to President Lincoln's request that he come to sit in congress to which body he had been elected fifteen months before. His greatest services to the house were rendered as chairman of the committees on military affairs, banking and currency, and appropriations. He opposed vigorously the theories of President Johnson and fought against any evasion of the constitution during the reconstruction period. He was elected United States Senator in 1880.

General Garfield came to the Republican Convention in June of that year to nominate John Sherman and oppose a third term for General Grant. After thirty-five ballots the convention suddenly stampeded to Garfield, completely won by the beauty and force of his nominating speech for Mr. Sherman. He was elected over General Hancock and began his administration with smooth waters ahead, except for some party dissention in New York, which was soon adjusted. Just as peace and happiness came to crown the efforts of this strong and popular administration, a disappointed office-seeker shot the President as he was about to start on a trip to Williamstown to attend the commencement exercises of his *alma mater*. He lingered long between life and death, but finally died from blood-poisoning at Elberon, N. J., where he had been taken in the hope that the sea air would benefit him.

"Among the public men of his era, none had higher qualities of statesmanship and greater culture than James A. Garfield."

J. A. Garfield

CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR

TWENTY-FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served part of one term—*from* 1881 *to* 1885

Born October 5, 1830—Died November 18, 1886

CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR

CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR was born in Fairfield, Vermont, on the fifth of October, 1830. His father was Rev. William Arthur and his mother was Malvina Stone, a descendant of the early New Hampshire pioneers. Chester, the eldest son of nine children, received his early education at Union Village and Schenectady. He entered Union College as a sophomore and graduated with honors at the age of eighteen. He had decided upon law as his profession and at once took up legal studies at Ballston Spa and Lansingburg, earning money on the side by tutoring boys for college.

Having saved sufficient money, Arthur went to New York City where he entered the law office of Erastus D. Culver. He was admitted to the bar the same year and was at once taken into the firm of Culver, Parker & Arthur.

Entering politics as a Whig, Arthur took part in the first Republican convention at Saratoga. He became a warm friend of Governor Morgan and when the Civil War began, that official appointed him acting quartermaster-general in New York City, later advancing him to the office of inspector-general, with the rank of a brigadier-general. The practical good sense and ceaseless exertions of Mr. Arthur brought order to a department that was all confusion, and large sums of money were saved for the state by his efficiency.

After a new regime brought a successor in office, General Arthur returned to his law practice, but was soon drawn into public life again by an appointment from President Grant, as collector of the port of New York. When President Hayes came into office there was criticism of the management of the custom-house but Collector Arthur, in a masterly reply, clearly demonstrated the efficiency with which the affairs of the custom-house had been conducted.

At the Republican convention of 1880 there was a general demand that a Grant advocate and a New York resident should be General Garfield's running mate. General Arthur met both these requirements and the two warriors were elected over Tilden and Hendricks, the Democratic candidates.

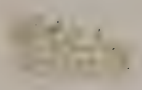
On July 2, 1881, President Garfield was shot. His death in September brought the Vice-President into the office of Chief-Executive for the fourth time in the history of the Republic. The weeks of uncertainty between the President's assassination and his death had left the public mind in a disturbed condition. Factional feeling broke out in the Republican party and the whole nation was in a state of tense expectancy. But the new President was master of the situation and all fears were dispelled. An indiscreet leader could have brought about disaster, but General Arthur chose a conservative course which was positive and far-reaching in its results.

President Arthur's administration can best be summed up by the resolutions passed by the Republican National Convention which nominated James G. Blaine; ". . . we recognize a wise, conservative, and patriotic policy, under which the country has been blessed with remarkable prosperity, and we believe his eminent services are entitled to and will receive the hearty approval of every citizen."

General Arthur died suddenly, of apoplexy, at his Lexington Avenue residence, New York City, on November 18, 1886.

C. A. Arthur

GROVER CLEVELAND



TWENTY-SECOND AND TWENTY-FOURTH
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served two terms—*from* 1885 *to* 1889 and *from* 1893 *to* 1897

Born March 18, 1837—Died June 24, 1908

GROVER CLEVELAND

GROVER CLEVELAND, the first chief magistrate to serve a second term without being elected his own successor, was born in a Presbyterian parsonage at Caldwell, New Jersey, on the 18th of March, 1837. His father, the Rev. Richard Falley Cleveland, was called to a church in Fayetteville, N. Y., later moving his family to Clinton. In these two towns Grover Cleveland received his academy schooling and at the age of seventeen he became a clerk and assistant teacher in the New York Institution for the Blind in New York City. In 1855 he began to read Blackstone, while holding the position of clerk in a Buffalo law office. After four years he was admitted to the Bar and was later appointed assistant district attorney of Erie County. After being defeated for the office of district attorney by his intimate friend, Lyman K. Bass, he became a partner in a law firm until his election as sheriff of Erie County.

The year 1881 saw Grover Cleveland elected Mayor of Buffalo. He was known as the "Veto Mayor" because of his fearlessness in checking illegal or unwise expenditures. Elected Governor of the State in 1882, Mr. Cleveland conducted his administration with such integrity and success that he became a prominent candidate for the presidency. He was nominated at the Democratic Convention at Chicago, 1884, and elected over James G. Blaine, the Republican selection.

As he had done while mayor and governor, so now as President, Mr. Cleveland made free use of the veto power. He approved the Monroe Doctrine as a guide in foreign relations, held to a policy of strict economy in government finances, protected the interests of the Indians, championed the cause of tariff reduction, and urged the ultimate establishment of the principles of free trade. Mr. Cleveland was renominated by the Democratic Convention at St. Louis, but was defeated by General Harrison, the Republican candidate.

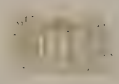
At the close of his term Mr. Cleveland again took up the practice of law in New York City, where he exerted a powerful influence upon his party and the general public by courageous and candid expressions of opinion upon public questions. Tariff reform again became the campaign issue in 1892 and the Democratic Convention again nominated Mr. Cleveland for President, the election this time resulting in an overwhelming victory for the Democratic party over General Harrison, the former victor.

During Mr. Cleveland's second term the long-debated question of tariff reform came before Congress. The discussion began in December, 1893. After being amended in the Senate and referred to a conference committee of both houses, the bill finally passed both Senate and House at midnight on August 27, 1894, becoming a law without the signature of the President.

Toward the end of his second term, Mr. Cleveland was at odds with his party over the question of free silver and for this reason the National Convention of 1896 withheld their endorsement of his administration. On March 4th, 1897, he retired to private life at Princeton, New Jersey, enjoying the highest esteem of his countrymen. He died at Princeton, June 24th, 1908.

Grover Cleveland

BENJAMIN HARRISON



TWENTY-THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term—*from* 1889 *to* 1893

Born August 20, 1833—Died March 13, 1901

BENJAMIN HARRISON

THE twenty-third president was born in North Bend, Ohio, on August 20th, 1833. His family owned vast landed estates on the Ohio River near the mouth of the Big Miami. Young Benjamin assisted his father in working the four-hundred acre farm and in loading its products on flat-boats for transportation on the Mississippi. After completing his first studies at the log school-house, he took a two-year course at Farmers College, College Hill, near Cincinnati. At the age of seventeen he entered Miami University at Oxford, where he became acquainted with Miss Caroline L. Scott, his future wife. Standing fourth in his class, Harrison graduated in 1852, and at once took up the study of law with Storer & Gwynne, a Cincinnati firm. Admitted to the bar the following year he put up his sign as attorney-at-law in Indianapolis.

Benjamin Harrison first gained prominence in politics in 1860 when he was elected reporter of the Supreme Court. His political career was interrupted by the Civil War and Governor Morton's appeal to him to raise a volunteer regiment. Harrison enlisted at once and was soon commissioned colonel of the 70th Indiana Infantry. He witnessed the surrender of General Johnston's army at Durham's Station, N. C., in April, 1865. Early the same year he was brevetted brigadier general of volunteers "for ability and manifest energy and gallantry in command of brigade."

In 1876 the Republican candidate for Governor of Ohio withdrew from the race and General Harrison was named in his place. In spite of a last-minute nomination, the General made an excellent showing at the polls but not quite strong enough to win. The losing battle, however, established him in a firm position with his party. After declining a place in President Garfield's cabinet, he was elected United States Senator and served from 1881 until 1887.

When the Republican National Convention met at Chicago in 1888 the party leaders realized that to defeat Mr. Cleveland they would have to select a man who would carry the doubtful states. General Harrison seemed to meet the requirements and on the eighth ballot he was chosen. After a highly demonstrative campaign, during which the General made ninety-four speeches, he was elected President of the United States over Grover Cleveland.

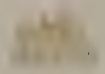
The president selected the brilliant James G. Blaine for Secretary of State, but at no time was Mr. Harrison overshadowed by any member of his cabinet. A sudden illness overtook Mr. Blaine in the midst of the settlement of the Bering Sea controversy, and the President found himself with the entire burden upon his own shoulders. Even hostile newspapers admitted that the State Department under President Harrison was thoroughly patriotic and American. His policy in regard to the tariff was that of an out-and-out *protectionist.* His entire administration was businesslike in domestic affairs; dignified and patriotic in foreign policy.

Prosperity was enjoyed at home and peace was maintained with all nations.

General Harrison was renominated by his party at Minneapolis but was not re-elected. He died on the 13th of March, 1901.

Benj Harrison

WILLIAM McKINLEY



TWENTY-FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term and part of another—*from* 1897 *to* 1901

Born January 29, 1843—Died September 14, 1901

WILLIAM McKINLEY

THE contribution of the *Buckeye State* to America's wealth of great statesmen has been more than liberal, but when William McKinley first saw the light of day at Niles in Trumbull County, Ohio had brought forth one whose profound intellect and christian character was to reflect glory without limit upon his state and his nation. William McKinley sprang from an ancestry typically American and his home life was blessed by a mother who imbued her nine children with the love of God and their native land.

Because of limited means, the education of William McKinley was confined to the public schools of Ohio and an academic course in Alleghany College. He was a clerk in the post-office at Poland, Ohio when the Civil War broke out and at a meeting in the town tavern he enlisted as a private in the 23rd Ohio Volunteers. After serving fourteen months he was placed on General Hayes's staff as commissary sergeant and for conspicuous bravery under fire at the battle of Antietam he was made a second lieutenant. Subsequently he achieved the ranks of first-lieutenant, captain, and brevet major.

At the close of the war he began the study of law at Youngstown, Ohio, later continuing his work at Albany Law School, New York. After admission to the bar at Warren, Ohio in 1867, he began his practice at Canton. As prosecuting attorney of Stark County, Major McKinley launched a political career that was to end only in the White House. He was elected to the house by the Ohio republicans, serving six terms from three of the districts of his state. From 1892 to 1896 Mr. McKinley served as Governor of Ohio, his re-election in 1893 carrying him in by the unusual plurality of 80,995. During his term he successfully coped with serious labor riots by the judicious and timely use of the militia.

The Republican National Convention, meeting at St. Louis in June, 1896, nominated Major McKinley for the presidency and he was elected over Mr. Bryan by an electoral college vote of 271 to 176. Following the passage of the Dingley tariff measure, there was a decided spread of prosperity throughout the nation. Then came the Spanish War. The President did all in his power to avert the conflict, but war was inevitable. The speedy and victorious verdict which was soon rendered was a tribute to the wisdom of the President and his brilliant aides in the war and navy departments.

When trouble seemed brewing in the Philippine Islands, the President appointed a commission to study the situation and report on a suitable form of government for the new territory. He approved the resolution of both houses for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands. When the Hague peace conference convened in May, 1899, a delegation from the United States was present, having been personally selected by President McKinley. In 1900 a new civil government was established in the Philippines under the direction of the Taft commission.

Mr. McKinley was renominated by the Philadelphia convention and again was elected over Mr. Bryan. While holding a reception at the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in the fall of 1901, the President was shot by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist. He died on September fourteenth.

William McKinley

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

TWENTY-SIXTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one full term and part of another—*from* 1901 *to* 1909

Born October 27, 1858—Died January 6, 1919

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

THEODORE ROOSEVELT was born at number Twenty-eight East 20th Street, New York City, on October twenty-seventh, 1858. His father was a prominent glass merchant of Dutch lineage and his mother a Southerner of Scotch blood, mingled with Irish, French, and German. Theodore was a sickly child and his youthful years were spent in continuous strife against the torturing attacks of asthma and other ailments. This forced him to keep to his bed where he passed the long hours by improving his young mind with extensive reading of history, science and biography, sometimes receiving instruction from private tutors. At the age of nine he was taken on a European tour, which enriched his store of self-acquired knowledge and gave him keen understanding of foreign lands and peoples.

Theodore Roosevelt was a hero-worshipper and he placed his own father in the center of his shrine, surrounding him with heroes taken from the books he loved best. Entering Harvard in 1876, he set about perfecting himself mentally and physically by means of hard study, wide reading, foot-ball and boxing. Shortly after graduation he took up the study of the law at Columbia and made his entry into politics by joining the Republican Club of the 21st Assembly District. Almost instant popularity brought about his nomination and election to the State Assembly, in which body he became a national figure.

In 1888 Mr. Roosevelt was appointed a member of the U. S. Civil Service Commission at Washington where he waged a fierce battle for civil service reform. As President of the Police Board in New York City, he fearlessly reorganized the force and brought about a reign of law and order in the metropolis. As Assistant Secretary of the Navy in the McKinley cabinet, Mr. Roosevelt strove to make our naval forces a mighty power on the seas. When war with Spain came he resigned to become lieutenant-colonel of the "Rough Riders." At San Juan he personally led the charge up the hill—at first on his horse, later on foot, amid a constant rain of Mauser bullets.

Upon his return after the war Colonel Roosevelt was elected Governor of New York. Then his political enemies, fearful of his growing power, decided to shelve the popular colonel by making him vice-president, but the untimely assassination of President McKinley brought Mr. Roosevelt into the presidential chair, where he conducted domestic and foreign affairs with courage and vigor. He brought to a peaceful conclusion the bitter conflict between capital and labor. He was elected President in November, 1904, and the ensuing term was a repetition of his previous firm and progressive administration.

When the World War came the Colonel pleaded for a chance to take a division to France, but was refused permission. He then plunged into war work at home with such zeal that a serious fever, contracted in Brazil, returned. His unquenchable fighting spirit urged him on in spite of illness and pain. He was finally forced to submit to an operation, recovered, returned to his work, and was again stricken. On January 6th, 1919, four hours after midnight, the great-hearted warrior quietly passed into the great beyond while he slept.

Theodore Roosevelt

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

TWENTY-SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term—*from* 1909 *to* 1913

Born September 15, 1857

Died March 8, 1930

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, September fifteenth, 1857. His father, a man of wealth and prominence, gave him every advantage that money and social position could offer and never was given cause to regret his investment. At the age of seventeen, William Howard Taft entered Yale, where he soon became prominent in athletics and the classroom. When he graduated in 1878 he ranked second in his class. He then returned to his home and took up the study of law at the Cincinnati Law School, graduating with high honors in 1880. He became law reporter for the *Cincinnati Times* and the *Commercial* before entering into active practice.

After serving as assistant prosecutor of Hamilton County, Mr. Taft was made Solicitor-General of the United States under President Harrison. He left this office to become a judge of the United States District Court. From 1896 to 1900 he was dean and professor of law at the University of Cincinnati. At this time he was appointed by President McKinley to head the Commission to inaugurate civil rule in the Philippines. This was a most trying and difficult task, but Judge Taft's capacity to work harmoniously with other men and his ability to get favorable results from conflicting ideas and interests enabled him to establish order and to introduce a strong civil government. Mr. Taft's able administration in the islands saw the beginning of a system of good roads, public schools, post offices, and banks.

In 1904 Judge Taft became Secretary of War in the Roosevelt Cabinet. He represented the United States on many important foreign missions, his travels taking him to Japan, China, Russia, the Philippines, Cuba, and the Panama Canal zone. President Roosevelt favored Mr. Taft as his successor and gave him his support in the race for the Republican nomination. Judge Taft was successful at the national convention and was overwhelmingly elected president over Mr. Bryan.

As chief-executive Mr. Taft urged a revision of the tariff and called a special session of Congress to secure it. This resulted in the adoption of the Payne-Aldrich Tariff, an act which soon became unpopular and encouraged the growth of the "Progressive" movement. President Taft favored a strong navy, a graduated inheritance tax, and a postal savings bank system.

In 1912 Taft and Roosevelt severed relations and entered into a contest for the Republican nomination. Mr. Taft won but the colonel headed the ticket of the newly formed Progressive party. This split in the ranks was fatal and the Democrats' candidate, Mr. Wilson, was elected.

Mr. Taft became Kent professor of law at Yale in 1913 and that year was elected president of the American Bar Association. He became chairman of the Central Committee of the American Red Cross in 1916, and in 1921 President Harding appointed him Chief-Justice of the United States, an honor for which Mr. Taft had hoped throughout his entire career and which he considers his greatest. He is the only man in American history who has filled both the highest executive and judicial offices in the nation. Died March 8, 1930.

HARRIS & EWING

William Howard Taft

WOODROW WILSON

TWENTY-EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served two terms—*from* 1913 *to* 1921

Born December 28, 1856—Died February 3, 1924

WOODROW WILSON

IN THE year 1807 James Wilson, a young Irishman of County Down, set sail for Philadelphia. During the voyage he fell in love with a pretty Irish lass from Ulster named Anne Adams and about a year later their romance led them to the altar. The youngest son of their ten children was Joseph Ruggles Wilson, the father of Woodrow. A brilliant student, Joseph Wilson answered the call to the Presbyterian ministry and in 1849, just before he was ordained, he married Janet Woodrow, daughter of a Scotch Presbyterian minister. From this cultured, Scotch-Irish ancestry the twenty-eighth president of the United States inherited his passion for learning.

Thomas Woodrow Wilson was born in the Presbyterian manse at Staunton, Virginia—the state which has been called the "Mother of Presidents." The public schools were poorly equipped and it was his father who "bent the twig" and inclined the youthful mind toward higher learning. At the age of 17 "Tommy" attended Davidson College, Charlotte, N. C. where he won high honors with his essays. Poor health cut short his stay at Davidson and he returned to his home in Wilmington N. C. where, after regaining his health, he began to prepare for Princeton.

At *Old Nassau* Woodrow Wilson discovered the fountain at which he could slake his ever increasing thirst for knowledge. It was there, while he studied the Science of Government and kindred subjects, that his mind turned toward politics. After graduation he studied law at the University of Virginia and in 1882 began to practice in Atlanta. A two year course at Johns Hopkins resulted in his obtaining the degree of Ph.D. Professorships at Bryn Mawr, Wesleyan, and Princeton were followed by a call in 1902 to become president of the latter institution.

Mr. Wilson remained at the head of Princeton University until 1910 when he was elected Governor of New Jersey. In this office he won great fame by his defiance of the "bosses" and his generalship in securing the necessary legislation to "cut down the jungles."

At the Democratic National Convention in Baltimore, July 1912, Woodrow Wilson was nominated for President of the United States on the forty-sixth ballot. He was elected in November over William H. Taft, Republican and Theodore Roosevelt of the newly born Progressive Party.

History has recorded the gigantic accomplishments of our "War President." The limited space of this sketch will not permit even a resumé. It is sufficient to say that war-torn Europe looked to America for salvation. America, guided by the hand of Woodrow Wilson, was not found wanting. After victory came the crowning achievement. At Versailles the Treaty of Peace and the League of Nations brought hope to a war-weary world that strife between nations would be crushed forever. The United States Senate did not ratify the treaty but in 1920 the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Woodrow Wilson showed that mankind was eternally grateful. Broken in health from his efforts in behalf of his plan for universal peace, Mr. Wilson died on February 3, 1924.

HARRIS & EWING

Woodrow Wilson

WARREN G. HARDING

TWENTY-NINTH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served part of one term—*from* 1921 *to* 1923

Born November 2, 1865—Died August 2, 1923

WARREN G. HARDING

WARREN G. HARDING was a true son of American pioneers. Originally of Scottish descent, the Hardings came to America before the Revolution and settled in New England, where they endured the hardships common to colonial life. Later they joined the covered-wagon trains bound westward, crossing the Alleghanies, and settling in Ohio, the "state of Presidents." Near the village of Blooming Grove, Morrow County, the grandfather of Warren Harding built his homestead in a clearing in the woods. Dr. George Tryon Harding, father of the President, was born here and here he made his home with his wife, a home-loving, industrious and religious woman.

On November second, 1865, Warren Gamaliel Harding was born in the rude homestead built by his pioneer grandfather. The oldest of eight children, Warren was raised in the same manner as the average farmer's boy of that region—cultivating the soil, felling trees, splitting rails. When Warren was five years of age his family moved to Caledonia, where he divided his time between attending school and the performance of regular duties on the farm.

At the age of fourteen this raw-boned six-footer entered Ohio Central College at Iberia. This institution, about equivalent to a high-school of today, gave young Harding a fair education and valuable experience in journalism as editor of the college paper. He raised the funds to pay his tuition and living expenses by selling brooms, toiling in the cornfields, painting barns, and working on the railroad. He graduated in 1882 with the degree of B.S.

When Warren Harding was nineteen his family moved to Marion, Ohio. Here, as at college, he was forced to hustle for himself. After teaching school for a year and selling insurance, the turning point of his career arrived when he became a reporter on the Marion *Mirror*. Young Harding's Republican activities soon caused the Democratic *Mirror* to drop him from their pay-roll, but this set-back was a blessing in disguise for it led to his purchase of the Marion *Daily Star*, a poorly managed, debt-ridden, struggling little journal. Filling every job from "devil" to managing editor, Mr. Harding lifted the *Star* from the depths of failure to a position of importance in the community.

Mr. Harding's political career began during McKinley's administration. After serving as State Senator for four years and as Lieutenant Governor for two, he ran for Governor of his state but was defeated. Then came his election to the United States Senate where he served on various committees. At the Republican National Convention of 1920 at Chicago, Senator Harding was nominated for the presidency on the tenth ballot with Calvin Coolidge as his running mate. They were elected over Governor James M. Cox of Ohio.

As President Harding, vigorous and strong, took office on March 4th, 1921, Woodrow Wilson retired to private life, a mere shell, broken in health. In less than two and one-half years Mrs. Harding was to receive a letter of condolence from Mr. Wilson on the death of the President. The program of readjustment and return to "normalcy" attempted by the chief-executive had worn him down, little by little, until the breaking point came. With Mrs. Harding at his bedside, he died on the evening of August 2, 1923.

HARRIS & EWING

Warren G. Harding

CALVIN COOLIDGE

THIRTIETH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Served one term and part of another—*from* 1923 *to* 1929

Born July 4, 1872

CALVIN COOLIDGE

CALVIN COOLIDGE, the first president of the United States to have in his veins the blood of the American Indian, was born on Independence Day 1872 at Plymouth, Vermont. This evidence of Indian blood has been traced back to his great grandmother and may account for many of Mr. Coolidge's characteristics. As the real American aboriginee was never the tower of silence that many writers have painted, likewise Calvin Coolidge is not the silent man that the popular myth describes, but one who can and does talk on legitimate subjects every day.

The parents of Calvin Coolidge were prosperous New England farm folk—people of consequence in their community—living in Puritan simplicity. They sent their son to the rural schoolhouse, Black River Academy and St. Johnsbury Academy to prepare himself for college. After graduating from Amherst, he studied law in Northampton and in two years time began his practice, which was soon interrupted by the call to political activity. In rapid succession he was councilman in Northampton, city solicitor, court clerk, member of the general court of Massachusetts, mayor of Northampton for two terms, and state Senator. Returned to office each time by increased majorities, Mr. Coolidge was elected Lieutenant-Governor of Massachusetts for three terms and Governor for two. His name became nationally prominent when he called out the entire state guard to break the strike of the Boston police. "There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, at anytime," said the firm-handed governor in supporting the commissioner in his refusal to reinstate the striking blue-coats.

When the deadlock at the Republican National Convention of 1920 was broken by the nomination of Warren G. Harding, Mr. Coolidge was named for vice-president on the first ballot and that ticket was swept into office by 404 electoral votes. On August 3rd, 1923, in the early morning hours, the news of President Harding's death was brought to the Coolidge paternal home at Plymouth where the vice-president was a visitor and Colonel Coolidge, a justice of the peace, administered the oath of office to his son.

In his first message President Coolidge secured the admiration and confidence of the entire nation. He approved the tariff, favored tax reduction, but frowned upon the soldier bonus and government relief for the farmers. He approved adherance to the World Court but advised co-operation without entanglement in regard to the League of Nations.

A great crisis arose when the president was called on to handle the delicate situation caused by the Teapot Dome lease disclosures. This crisis was met with typical Coolidge discretion and restraint. "I do not propose to sacrifice any innocent man for my own welfare, nor do I propose to maintain in office any unfit man for my own welfare," were the words with which the president made public his decision.

Public opinion brought about the nomination of Calvin Coolidge for president at the next National Convention. Party leaders gave way to the wishes of the people for clean, economic government. The election was a landslide triumph for Coolidge and Dawes. The insurgent-radical movement in Congress was subdued and the plans of the president for tax reduction and administrative economy were entirely successful.

HARRIS & EWING

Calvin Coolidge

HERBERT CLARK HOOVER

THIRTY-FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Inaugurated, 1929

Born August 10, 1874

HERBERT CLARK HOOVER

IN the year 1853 a small band of hardy pioneers halted their dusty covered-wagon train at a spot in the Iowa prairie lands on which was soon to rise the rude dwellings of West Branch, Cedar County. Jesse Hoover and his devout, attractive Quaker wife, Huldah Minthorn Hoover, were members of this group and in their humble, one-story cottage, on August 10, 1874, their second son, Herbert Clark, was born. Just as Jesse Hoover reached the flood-tide of his career he contracted typhoid fever and died. Only a small amount of life-insurance was left but Huldah Hoover determined her boys should go to college. She took in sewing, and received money and groceries in return for her services as preacher at Quarterly and First Day meetings. On one of these gospel preaching tours the devoted mother caught a severe cold which turned to pneumonia. The disease was fatal and at the age of nine, Herbert Hoover found himself an orphan.

Broken hearted but determined, the young Quaker left his beloved West Branch homestead to live with his Uncle Allan. At the age of eleven, Herbert was sent west to Oregon to attend the Quaker Academy at Newberg, under the care of his uncle, Dr. John Minthorn. He earned his way as chore-boy for the school and for Dr. Minthorn, until the latter's business affairs took him to Salem. Herbert went along as office boy and heard much talk of farming and mining. It was in this office that the chance remark of a visiting engineer—"Son, why don't you go in for engineering?"—transformed Herbert Hoover from a boy to a matured youth, filled with a determination to enter Senator Stanford's new university and to become a mining engineer.

Hoover was the first student at Stanford to take up his abode in the men's "dorm," Eucina Hall. He had to work his way through college and was in turn, clerk to the registrar, distributor of San Francisco newspapers to the student body, and laundry agent.

After graduation young Hoover went to Nevada City where he worked in a mine as laborer at $2.50 per day. He then became a typist in the office of Louis Janin, a great engineer of San Francisco. Janin was astounded at the youth's practical knowledge of engineering and he was sent on field work to New Mexico and Arizona. Then in rapid succession came gigantic triumphs in Australia as engineer for a Bristol firm and in China for the Department of Mines and Railways.

In 1914 came the World War and the beginning of Herbert Hoover's world ministry to his nation and to mankind. He brought order out of chaos when thousands of Americans, fleeing from the continent to London, found themselves temporarily stranded. The Belgian Relief Commission, of which he was the heart and soul, saved millions of people, young and old, from the swords of two of the deadly four horsemen—*famine* and *disease*.

On the 14th of June, 1928, the Republican National Convention assembled at Kansas City nominated on the first ballot Herbert Clark Hoover for President of the United States. In the November election he received four hundred and forty-four electoral votes to his Democratic opponent's eighty-seven.

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Herbert Hoover

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